

Dear Dr. Kristina Thayer --

Even though my comments missed the deadline -- I just came across an email message informing me of <http://niehs.nih.gov/conferences/od/cehr/report.htm> -- I wanted to add my plea for you to consider the adverse events caused by the flavors and fragrance industry's rush of petrochemically derived products to market without full substantiation of safety.

Flavors and fragrances -- the industry uses the words interchangeably in an effort to obfuscate -- are easily ignored or deliberately overlooked for their adverse effects. The flavors and fragrances industry has an incredibly strong lobby. They even try to reach across "the pond" to apply pressure to Europe.

The neurotoxins found in fragrances can affect the respiratory and cardiovascular system, as well as the brain.

Other adverse health events could be due to the fact that fragrances (and flavors) contain chemicals that are known or suspected carcinogens, irritants, hormone disrupters, mutagens, neurotoxins (already mentioned), sensitizers or teratogens. Yet, fragrances have not been fully substantiated for safety before marketing. Not only that, but the FDA does not require its very own warning be affixed to labels of such fragrances (or flavors), so the public could at least be clued in. That warning should read: **'WARNING: The safety of this product has not been determined.'** (<http://vm.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/cos-206.html>)

Most folks who used fragranced (or flavored) products, do so thinking they are fine. But, the adverse health events could take years in the building. And, what's worse, is that artificial flavors and fragrances can adversely affect people immediately, second and third hand. So while a user may be storing toxins, these products can and do adversely affect untold others within breathing distance. And, thanks to phthalates, the hanging power of any given man-made, petrochemically derived scent is an unusually long time.

While my comments are too late to be considered, I certainly hope you will keep this information at the front of your brain, for every time you think of embryonic and fetal development, I hope you think of commonly used coumarins. Every time you think of infants and their various scented products, I hope you think of commonly used musks, which can store in adipose tissue, transfer to baby from breasts via mother's milk, cause skin reactions, etc. Every time you think of males with Hypospadias, think commonly used phthalates, which are added to fragrances to make the scent last, and Last and LAST. And that's just for openers. Also think soaring rates of "Unexplained" asthma, and cancers, ADD, "over-active" bladder or bowels, etc., all of which could be caused by all the unknown chemicals used in unknown combinations in unknown amounts. Unknown, that is unless one pays for a laboratory analysis, as reflected in EHN's FDA Petition 99P-1340 -- <http://www.ehnca.org/FDApetition/bkgrinfo.htm>

The combinations of tens to hundreds of chemicals used to concoct any one scent, multiplied out by the number of scented products on one's body and also, those breathed in by one during any given day, leads one to think that fragrances (and flavors) should be closely scrutinized before being released to market without any warning whatsoever to the public who only has advertising hyperbole upon which to base their purchasing decisions.

Thank you for your time and (future) attention to my concerns.

We ALL are stakeholders when it comes to breathing.

Sincerely,  
Barb Wilkie

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Why does mainstream media fail to educate the public regarding the harmful chemical concoctions labeled benignly as "fragrance"? You don't think it has anything at all to do with filling their advertising coffers, do you?

EHN's Fragrance FDA Citizens' Petition 99P-1340  
Write to the FDA . . . tell them to protect your health by regulating the flavors and fragrance industry.  
Put **Docket Number 99P-1340** on your subject line.  
E-mail FDA Dockets to: [<fdadockets@oc.fda.gov>](mailto:fdadockets@oc.fda.gov)

GREEN products, according to the  
US Dept. of the Interior, "**MUST NOT contain  
petrochemical-derived fragrances.**"  
<http://www.doi.gov/greening/sustain/trad.html>